

CLAIMS

1. A mobile radio communications device arranged for receiving a broadcast service and including reception means for reading a channel to be employed by the broadcast service, means for receiving otherwise than via the said channel scheduling information related to the broadcast service, means for determining from the scheduling information a start time of the broadcast service on the channel, and means for determining from the scheduling information preparation time of the broadcast service and requiring transmission on the said channel prior to the said start time of the broadcast service, and means for inhibiting monitoring of the said channel at the reception means until a time determined by the said start time less the said preparation time.

2. A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the means for inhibiting monitoring of the said channel comprises a software control means.

3. A device as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, and arranged so as to retrieve scheduling information from a service announcement phase of data supplied to the device.

4. A device as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, and wherein the scheduling information is arranged to be provided over signaling levels different from the service announcement phase.

5. A device as claimed in any one or more of Claims 1 to 4, and wherein the data relating to the preparation time is delivered to the device during a service announcement phase.

6. A device as claimed in any one or more of the preceding claims, wherein the preparation time includes time required by the network for counting the number of mobile devices requiring receipt of the broadcast session.

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7. A device as claimed in Claim 6, and arranged so as to trigger uplink signal relating to the said counting upon commencement of monitoring of the notification channel.

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8. A device as claimed in any one or more of the preceding claims wherein the broadcast service comprises a MBMS service.

9. A device as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the said channel comprises a MBMS notification channel.

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10. A device as claimed in any one or more of the preceding claims, and comprising a cellular phone.

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11. A method of operating a mobile radio communications device arranged for receiving the broadcast service and including the steps of reading a channel to be employed by the broadcast service, receiving, otherwise and via the said channel, scheduling information related to the broadcast service, determining from the scheduling information the start time of the broadcast service on the said channel, determining from the scheduling information preparation time of the broadcast service and which requires transmission on the said channel prior to the start of the broadcast service and further including the step of inhibiting monitoring of the said channel until a time determined by the start time less the said preparation time.

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12. A method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the said monitoring is inhibited by way of software control means.

13. A method as claimed in Claim 11 or 12, and including the step
5 of retrieving scheduling information from a service announcement phase of data supplied to the device.

14. A method as claimed in Claim 11, 12 or 13, and wherein scheduling information is arranged to be provided over signaling levels
10 different from the service announcement phase.

15. A method as claimed in any one or more of Claims 11 to 14, and wherein the data relating to the preparation time is delivered to the device during a service announcement phase.
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16. A method as claimed in any one or more of Claims 11 to 15, wherein the preparation of time includes time required by the network for counting the number of mobile devices requiring receipt of the broadcast session.
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17. A communication system comprising a network including a mobile radio communications terminal as defined in any one or more of Claims 1 to 10.

25 18. A system as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the said network comprises a MBMS UTRAN.

19. A mobile radio communications device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the
30 accompanying drawing.

20. A method of operating a mobile radio communications device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

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21. A communication system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.